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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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AUGUST 31, 1943

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## CROPS

Early August indications for crop output this season, with exception of last year, largest on record. Last year total crop production was 26 percent above pre-drought average (1923-32); this year promises to be about 18 percent above. In other words, crops this year about 6 percent lower than last, but 5 percent higher than in any other year. Total production of commercial vegetable crops indicated about 5 percent less than last year but 3 percent above 1932-41 average. Fruit is down this year: total other than citrus around 17 percent under last year and 12 percent below 1932-41 average.

Corn crop, according to August 1 indications, around 2.9 billion bushels. This would be 300 million under last year, but otherwise largest crop since 1932; about 525 million or 22 percent above 10-year average (1932-41).

Wheat crop of 1943 now indicated 835 million bushels. This compares with 981 million bushels last year and 10-year average (1932-41) of 738 million bushels. Of total crop 534 million bushels are winter wheat and 301 million spring wheat.

Oats crop has not done too well this summer; August 1 indication 1,189 million bushels, about 12.5 percent under last year though 17 percent above 10-year average. Barley crop indicated 349 million bushels, about 18 percent under last year but 43 percent above average. Rye crop small, estimated 33 million bushels, 42 percent under last year and 14 percent under average. Rice estimated 70.8 million bushels, which would be 7 percent above record crop of last year and 50 percent above 1932-41 average.

Soybeans indications August 1 were 200 million bushels, compared with 209 millions last year. Chief decline under last year is anticipated in Eastern Corn Belt.

Tobacco crop indicated 1,411 million pounds, compared with 1,412 million last year and 10-year average (1932-41) of 1,350 million pounds.

Potato prospect very favorable. Indicated crop 443 million bushels, compared with 371 last year and 363 millions the 10-year average. Sweet potatoes 24 percent larger crop than last year: 81.3 million

bushels, compared with 65.4 last year and 69.3 the 10-year average.

## FRUIT

Citrus prospects are about as favorable as a year ago; California crops look a little better and Texas and Florida oranges and grapefruit not quite as good as last year.

Among the deciduous fruits, apparently only grapes and prunes will exceed last year (by about 11 percent). The total crop of deciduous fruits is expected to be about 17 percent smaller than last season. Taking all fruit together, including citrus, total production appears likely to be about 11 percent smaller than in 1942-43.

Commercial apple crop light, 93 million bushels, compared with 129 millions last year. Peach crop 42.4 million bushels, 36 percent under last year. Pears 23.9 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year. Grapes fairly good crop, 2.7 million tons compared with 2.4 million last year. General prospect for oranges and lemons favorable, but grapefruit crop indicated will be under last year.

## LIVESTOCK

Continued heavy run of hogs to market, 5.4 million head slaughtered under Federal inspection in July-34 percent above the record July slaughter last year. For the hog-marketing year October-July, inspected slaughter was 51.3 million head, 13 percent above same period year previous. Pork in cold storage increased 28 million pounds during July, on August 1 totaled 542 million pounds, 108 million above last year and 55

million (11 percent) above 1938-42 average. Lard stocks 239 million pounds August 1, against 98 million year previous and 201 million August 1 average 1938-42. Government holdings (included in the totals) amounted to 85 million pounds of pork and 132 million pounds of lard. FDA has announced that it intends to curtail purchases of most pork items during next few weeks.

Cattle slaughter in July was 19 percent below July last year. Calf slaughter even lower-27 percent under July 1942. Evidently considerable meat not going through federally inspected slaughter; for first 7 months of this year

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED<sup>1</sup>

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	JULY 15 1943	AUG. 15 1943	AUG. 15 1943
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	19.60	19.81	20.46
Wheat, bu. . . . . dol.	1.26	1.27	1.46
Corn, bu. . . . . dol.	1.08	1.09	1.06
Oats, bu. . . . . dol.	.656	.652	.658
Potatoes, bu. . . . . dol.	1.67	1.59	1.19
Cattle, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	12.60	12.30	8.94
Calves, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	13.90	13.70	11.10
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	13.20	13.70	12.00
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	13.30	13.80	9.70
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	36.3	38.8	<sup>2</sup> 34.8
Chickens, live, lb. . . . . ct.	25.3	25.6	18.8
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	49.2	49.8	<sup>2</sup> 41.3
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	3.07	3.13	<sup>2</sup> 2.59

<sup>1</sup>Prices are shown for various commodities, except cotton, for which 5 percent or more of annual sales are made by farmers during August. <sup>2</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.



receipts of cattle at 68 public stockyard markets were only 4.2 percent below year ago, yet slaughter under Federal inspection was down 22 percent. Eleven percent fewer cattle are on feed in Corn Belt feed lots than year ago. During period April 1 to August 1 less than 2/3 as many cattle were put on feed (spread between prices for feeder and fed cattle was unusually small). Expected that cattle slaughter will increase seasonally during early fall; supplies of grain-fed cattle may be about like a year earlier, but marketings of range cattle will be heavy. Cattle numbers in Western States are large, relative to the present feed resources.

*Lamb* slaughter under Federal inspection picked up sharply in July, was 10 percent above last year. Total slaughter under Federal inspection for first 7 months of 1942 was 4 percent above same period last year. The 1943 lamb crop is estimated at 31.1 million head, 5 percent under last year.

#### EGGS

At this time of year egg production usually drops off and this will continue until November. Egg receipts at the four principal markets the first two weeks of August, however, were 10 percent larger than in like period of 1942. Nevertheless, demand has outstripped supply of eggs, resulting in higher prices. Storage stocks of eggs on August 1 were largest on record.

#### DAIRY

*Milk* production in July totaled 11.7 billion pounds, about like July 1942. Although the number of milk cows on farms was about 2.6 percent larger than a year ago, this was offset by a 2 or 3 percent decrease in production per cow. Output of creamery *butter* in July was about 2 percent below year previous. Total storage stocks of butter August 1 were 210 million pounds or 61 million pounds above a year previous, large part now held by Government. Total butter production this year expected to be about like 1942, but in 1944 may be 10 percent less than this year. Output of *cheese* in July was 11 percent below year previous. Storage stocks of cheese August 1 were 62 percent above average although 39 percent below the record stocks a year ago. Manufacturers have accumulated record stocks of *evaporated milk*, 374 million pounds on July 1 or 32 percent above 1935-39 average that date.

#### FEED

The improvement in corn and wheat prospects during July placed the 1943-44 supply of feed grains indicated August 1, at 143 million tons, only about 10 million

tons less than in 1942-43. This includes expected imports of feed wheat, oats, and barley from Canada. Except for last year this would be the largest feed supply on record, being 19 percent above the 1937-41 average. Total supply of high protein feeds for this year, converted to oil-mill equivalent, is expected to be about 11.2 million tons, slightly below supply of this past season. In relation to livestock to be fed, however, this supply of high protein feeds is 11 percent smaller than 1942-43 and is smallest in recent years.

#### FARM LABOR

Approximately 11 million persons were employed on farms August 1. This was a decline of about 6 percent under the July 1 peak, about 2 percent under August 1 last year and 3 percent under five-year August average.

Total number of *hired* workers August 1 was 2,962,000; of *family* workers, 8,058,000. The working force now includes many women, young people, city people, and Bahamian, Jamaican, and Mexican workers as well as soldiers on leave and other help which does not normally work on the farms. In other words, while the total number of hired workers on farms is not greatly below average, they do not represent the skill and capacity of the peace-time labor force.

#### FARM INCOME

Total income from farm products sold during July, \$1,549 million, compared with \$1,219 million the year previous. Government payments in July were \$35 million, compared with 30 millions in July 1942.

For the seven months January-July, farm income from sale of products plus Government payments amounted to \$9,787 million, compared with \$7,464 million for the like period last year. Government payments during the first seven months this year \$435 million, compared with \$461 million last year.

Receipts from crops this year 41 percent above and livestock 30 percent above last year. Increases notable from oil crops, meat animals, dairy products, and poultry and eggs.

#### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	AUG. 1943
Prices received by farmers . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	193
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	165
Parity ratio . . . . .		117
Wholesale prices of food . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	164
Retail prices of food . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 174
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	274
Weekly factory earnings . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 394
RATIOS	LONG-TIME AUG. AVERAGE	AUG. 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	11.1	12.6
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	23.4	22.6
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.20	1.25
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	16.2	18.2
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-JULY 1942	JAN.-JULY 1943
Milk, (Mil. lb.) . . . . .	73,428	73,426
Eggs, (Mil.) . . . . .	33,358	37,936
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . . . .	3,080	2,693
Pork and lard <sup>3</sup> (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . . . .	4,861	5,740
All meats, <sup>3</sup> (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . . . .	8,624	9,033

<sup>1</sup>July figure. <sup>2</sup>Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. July figure. <sup>3</sup>Federally inspected slaughter. Jan.-June figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.]